

Iowa Valley Community College District 2020 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Week of February 24, 2020

SESSION TIMETABLE

March 2-13 represents the weeks when debate in each chamber is not limited by rule.

FUTURE TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

On Feb. 26, the House Appropriations Committee heard presentations from education groups on their perspective of future trends in college enrollment. Presenters were ICSAC Executive Director Dr. Mark Wiederspan, UNI President Mark Nook, Central College President Mark Putnam, and NICC President Dr. Liang Chee Wee. Notes from the group:

- College enrollment is projected to decline by 7% starting in the 2024 academic year
- 55% of black and Latino students who graduate from an Iowa high school enroll in college
- Technology is one of the biggest issues for Iowa's workforce and its economy
- 86.7% of Iowa high school students enroll in a college in Iowa
- Those without a high school diploma are 33,442 (ages 18 – 24), 27,293 (ages 25 – 34), 27,463 (ages 35 – 44), 56,247 (ages 45 – 64), and 57,642 (ages 65 & over)

IOWA REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE

The Iowa Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) will meet on Thursday, Mar. 12, at 10 am in the Supreme Court Chamber (Statehouse).

ACTIVE LEGISLATION

House File 2383 – Retaining Health Care Professionals in Iowa – Requires the Board of Regents to adopt a policy requiring that not less than 75% of students accepted at the U of Iowa's College of Medicine and College of Dentistry be either residents of Iowa or enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution prior to enrolling in the College of Medicine and the College of Dentistry. Iowa Code section 261E.2 defines an eligible postsecondary institution as a Community College. The bill is expected to address helping to retain healthcare professionals in rural communities located in the state after they graduate from dental or medical school. The bill prioritizes Iowa students over the out-of-state students by the U of I. According to the Board of Regents' fall 2018 Enrollment Report, Iowa students represented 66.3% of graduate and postgraduate enrollment in the College of Dentistry and 63.6% in the College of Medicine. HF 2383 passed out of the House this week

and was referred to the Senate Human Resources Committee.

Senate File 2391 – Prohibits Political Subdivisions from Expending Public Moneys for Payment to Persons Responsible for Ransomware Attacks – The bill defines a "political subdivision" as a city, county, township, or school district and defines "encryption" as the use of an algorithmic process to transform data into a form in which the data is rendered unreadable or unusable without the use of a confidential process or key. The bill defines "ransomware attack" to mean carrying out until payment is made, or threatening to carry out until payment is made. SF 2391 provides that information related to a political subdivision's insurance coverage for cybersecurity or ransomware attack shall be considered confidential records under Iowa Code section 22.7. The bill includes a legislative intent section which states it is the intent of the General Assembly that the political subdivisions have tested cybersecurity mitigation plans and policies. SF 2391 passed out of the Senate State Government Committee and was placed on the Senate Calendar for Debate on 2/24.

House File 2502 – Firearms Accessories and Firing Ranges – The bill prevents political subdivisions from enacting arbitrary standards on firing ranges

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that are stronger than Iowa law. The bill prevents a patchwork of regulations on firearms accessories by assuring the state is solely responsible for regulating those accessories. If the political subdivision bans firearms from its property, it must provide appropriate security. A political subdivision shall not enact an ordinance, motion, resolution, policy, or amendment regulating the ownership, possession, legal transfer, lawful transportation, modification, registration, or licensing of firearms, firearms attachments, or weapons when the ownership, possession, transfer, transportation, or modification is otherwise lawful under Iowa law. A political subdivision shall not enact an ordinance, motion, resolution, policy, or amendment regulating the storage of weapons or ammunition. A political subdivision may restrict the carrying, possession, or transportation of firearms or other dangerous weapons in the buildings or physical structures located on the property under the political subdivision's control if adequate arrangements are made by the political subdivision to screen persons for firearms or other dangerous weapons and the political subdivision provides armed security personnel inside the building or physical structure where the restriction is to be in effect. HF 2502 passed out of the House on 2/27 and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

House File 2375 – Hands-Free Use of Cell Phones – The bill prohibits the use of cell phones or other electronic communication devices unless it is in a hands-free or voice-activated mode while driving in Iowa. Exceptions exist for emergency situations and public safety officers performing official duties. HF 2375 allows use of an electronic communication device under the following circumstances:

- Use in voice-activated or hands-free mode
- Use by members of a public safety agency performing official duties
- Use by healthcare professionals in the course of emergency situations
- Use for the purpose of receiving safety-related information
- Use for the purpose of reporting an emergency situation
- Use by certain radio operators

The bill includes a \$100 fine for a moving violation. HF 2375 was passed out of the House Transportation Committee and was placed on the House Calendar for Debate on 2/13.

Senate File 2184 – Weapons, Law Enforcement Carrying on School Grounds – The bill relates to peace officers, reserve peace officers, and federal officers going armed with, carrying, or transporting a

firearm on school grounds. The bill establishes an exception to Iowa Code section 724.4B, which establishes a penalty for carrying firearms on school grounds. Under current law, a person who goes armed with, carries, or transports a firearm of any kind, concealed or not, on the grounds of a school commits a Class D felony. In 2019, there were four convictions for carrying a firearm on school grounds. The bill passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and was placed on the Senate Calendar for Debate on 2/5.

Senate File 2224 – School Grounds Firearms – The bill relates to being armed with, carrying, or transporting a firearm when transporting a person to or from school or delivering an item to or from school. SF 2224 provides that a person with a valid non-professional permit to carry weapons may go armed with, carry, or transport a firearm on school grounds when the person is on school grounds for the purpose of transporting another person or delivering an item to or from school, as long as the person remains in the school parking area or school driveway designed for a motor vehicle. The bill provides that a school shall be immune from any claim, cause of action, or lawsuit filed by an individual seeking relief from damages that are alleged, directly or indirectly, as a result to any concealed pistol

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or revolver brought onto the school property.

House File 2291 – Authority of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission to Organize a Nonprofit Corporation – The bill authorizes the ICSAC to organize a 501(C)(3) corporation that qualifies as a tax-exempt corporation for the purpose of receiving and disbursing funds from public or private sources to be used to provide Iowans with educational financial assistance and services under programs administered by the Commission. The Board of Directors under the corporation shall be nine members who will be appointed by the Governor or their successors in office. HF 2291 passed out of the House on 2/26 and was referred to the Senate Education Committee on 2/27.

For more information about the activity during the 2020 legislative session please contact:

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LEGISLATION SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

SF 2144 – Supplemental Appropriations K-12 – SF 2144 was signed into law by the Governor on 2/13.

SF 2164 – School Funding Equity – SF 2164 was signed into law by the Governor on 2/25.